

A new Green Pigeon from Pemba Island.

Mr. R. H. W. PAKENHAM sent for exhibition the following new race :—

Treron pemaensis, sp. nov.

Description.—Head and neck, chest and belly, tail and underside of wings grey with an olivaceous wash ; mantle, rump, wing-coverts and innermost secondaries green ; dark vinous patch on wing shoulder ; flight-feathers black ; edges of greater wing-coverts and secondaries, lower belly and thighs lemon-yellow ; under tail-coverts dark chestnut, grey and yellow.

Distribution.—Pemba Island, East Africa.

Type.—In the British Museum. Adult male. Pemba Island, at sea-level. Collected by Mr. R. H. W. Pakenham on January 12, 1940. Collector's no. 297. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1940.4.12.1.

Measurements.—The type-specimen measures : wing 162, tail 86, tarsus 24, bill (from base of skull) 24 mm. Another male specimen in the British Museum (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1940.4.12.2), taken by Mr. Pakenham on January 14, 1940, measures : wing 169, tail 89, tarsus 26, bill (from base of skull) 24 mm.

X *Soft parts*.—Bill coral-red at the base of both mandibles, pale greyish-white at the tip ; legs and feet yellow to orange-yellow, nails black ; iris blue with purple outer rim.

Remarks.—The breeding period appears to extend at least from December to February. On January 12 two adults were watched feeding a fledged juvenile which had left the nest and was strong on the wing : the same day and two days later males were taken in breeding condition. A nest was being built on January 21, and in another a parent was incubating two eggs from February 10 to 22 (when they were destroyed). Thereafter the birds disappeared from the locality.

The above two nests were built in the topmost branches of a *Mellingtonia* and a *Cassia javanica* tree respectively, both

within 15–20 yards of a two-storeyed residence. One bird in search of nest material was watched breaking off dry twigs with pods attached in a *Cassia siamea* tree close to my house, but it discarded one after another. The nest of which I obtained the best view was a shallow, unsymmetrical, untidy, and flimsy-looking structure of small twigs (with leaves attached) about 9–10 inches across, but it managed to withstand a great deal of high wind, which finally blew both eggs out of the nest.

The young fruit of the betel palm (*Areca catechu*) is a favourite food of this pigeon.

The call of the Pemba bird may be rendered as “kiú, tiú, kiuriu, kiwríkek-wríkek” (followed by a soft “krrrr, rrrr, rrrr”). The introductory “kiú, tiú, kiuriu” is also uttered softly, but not so quietly as the terminal purr. This call appears to differ substantially from those recorded by Moreau and by Vincent for *Vinago w. wakefieldi* and *V. delalandii orientalis* of Amani and Portuguese East Africa respectively (Ibis, 1932, pp. 509–510 ; 1934, pp. 526–527). I have seldom, if ever, heard the call except in the breeding season, when it was chiefly uttered in the early part of the morning and late afternoon, though it might also be heard at other times of day.

These birds often like to perch high up in trees, sometimes right on the summit of kapok- and mango-trees: when settled on such a perch they will sit for a long period quite motionless, diving direct from it when they fly. In the breeding season at least they showed remarkable tolerance of the proximity of human beings. At this season in 1939–40 they appeared suddenly in some numbers in the vicinity of the “boma” and township of Wete, Pemba, and made their presence evident by calling frequently, but they disappeared as suddenly after breeding. I have encountered one or two birds in the Ngezi Forest and near Fufuni in south Pemba, but they are ordinarily seldom seen or heard. Doubtless when not calling their habit of sitting motionless in a tall or leafy tree makes them very inconspicuous.